MUCH MERIT IN **NEW LITERATURE**

BY F. M. CRUNDEN. Librarian of the St. Louis Public Library.

Ethe ley times

In literature the closing year of the Nite-teenth Century has been notable chiefly for the production and wide circulation of libthe production and wide circulation of historical povels, and the dramatization of works of that class. St. Louis has played an important part in all three branches of this evolution of literary taste, her writes having contributed several meritorius works, her bookmakers having printed and distributed bundleds of thousands of volumes, and her stage linking been employed in more than one initial production of book-plays.

I am daily impressed with the fact that there are more good writers to-day than ever before, and that the standard of public taste is higher. While it is true that we have not had a Shakespeate since Elizabeth's time, nor a Milton since the days of the Commonwealth, the world was never so well supplied with good books as it is to-day, and the standard of requirements was never so high.

Observation on Old and New Writers.

Men who achieved fame as writers in the Men who achieved tame as writes in the early days of the century, men who were considered stylists of the purest type fifty years ago, would never be able to reach the public eye if they were starting out now. They would find themselves eclipsed in every way by hundreds of men and women every way by hundreds of men and women who are not in the front rank, and utterly overshadowed by the comparatively few who have achieved success in the recent past. Where there was one really good story-teller fifty years ago, there are several better ones now. Good English, instead of being the exception, has become the rule. The average of merit, both in point of narrative and style, has been greatly elevated.

books of the day.

Demand for High-Class Literature.

Reference to the records of the Library shows me that St. Louissms are reading works of a higher class than they demanded in former times. Few of the old writers have retained their popularity, while the new books that have ment cannot be supplied fast enough with our limited means, to keep pace with the demand. A striking example of this is found in Southworth's works. Two or three years ago it was impossible for us to get enough of them to supply the demand. The shelves were empty, and were kept so. To-day the Southworth shelves are alled, and the cry is for fiction of a higher grade.

In the children's library we have threen on the simple reason that they included false in the glock almost entirely within the past year. A long list of old books were dropped for the simple reason that they included false in containing the content of the library. We find that the children appreciate the care that has been shown in the selection of their reading matter, and than the old once were. The change means a great deal, because if the boy and girl are started in the right direction the man and woman will not reed looking after.

Scientific Works Widely Read.

Within the year there has been a marked increase in the demand for books that appear to the thoughtful reader—works of a triangle recognized, and the cry foundation upon which all art progress resis.

The True Significance of Art.

To day more the beautifying of public streets, parks and place. There are either streets parks and place almost the beautifying of public streets, parks and place. There are eithes form, as for its object the beautifying of public streets, parks and place. There are either some of such streets are that which contributes to the such streets parks that the new of the winder of such streets and park there are clies to the such streets and park there are clies to the most general and park themselves to the such st

Scientific Works Widely Rend.

Within the year there has been a marked increase in the demand for books that appeal to the thoughtful reader—works of a scientific character, particularly those treating of the applied sciences. Everything we can get on electricity is in instant and increase in requests for psychological hovels—books that deal with the borderland of thought that less between science and speculation. In this class I might mention "Hudson's Psychic Phenomena," which has been on the waiting list almost continuously, and the Reverend Minor J. Savage's "Life Beyond Death," which has been widely circulated.

Of the new books those most in demand are "In the Palace of the King," "Jandoo Meredith," "Eleanor," "The Reign of Law." Of the standard works, "Les Miserables' continues in the lead, as it has these many years past.

years past.
St. Louis Authors in Evidence. St. Louis Authors in Evidence.

Of the books by St. Louis authors which have been published since the beginning of the year, we have in circulation "God, the King, My Brother," by Miss Mary F. Nixon, "Penitentes," by Louis How, and "Beverly Osgood," by Mrs. J. R. Mecker. Winston Churchill's latest work, The Crisis," is just off the press, I understand, and we will have that before the year closes, I hope.

Within the year St. Louis publishers have turned out a number of decidedly creditable books. Of these the most notable is "Best Orations," a compliation, in ten volumes, from the press of F. B. Keyser. Not less important is "Best Essays," also in ten volumes, now in progress by the same publisher.

As a whole the work of the year along

lisher.

As a whole the work of the year along literary lines has been satisfactory, and, as I said in the beginning, St. Louis has played an Important part in it.

DEVELOPMENT OF AMERICAN ART.

Tille for undi-cour mar mos wee is t \$100, Jose Cell

Director St. Louis School and Museum Fine Arts. The most apparent evidence of the great progress we have made in art in America during the past year is to be found in the number and character of the gifts made by number and character of the gifts made by public-spirited citizens in every great city in our land. In Indianapolis a fund of \$250,000 has become available within this period for the promotion of the art interests of the city. The provisions of the gift show that this practical man of affairs, although his life had been devoted to the exacting details of a business career, recognized the value of art as a factor in the civilizing influences at work in city life. In Cleveland a much larger sum will soon be available for like purposes.

At an early day Buffalo will have in her park a palatial structure, costing nearly

At an early day Buffalo will have in her park a palatial structure, costing nearly half a million dollars, the gift of one of her public-spirited citizens. When completed it will provide a home for the Academy and Museum of Fine Arts. Chicago has made gigantic strides in developing the Field Coumblan Museum and her Art Institute in both departments—the school and museum. One collection alone, the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Nickerson, represents a princely forune. The Layton Art Gailery of Milware, through the generosity of its founder, as receiving frequent additions.

People Interested in Art Museums.

collections are made, through the generosity of citizens, has far outstraped the original plans as formulated by the founders. In nearly all of these institutions the old quarters are either being abandoned for new and larger buildings or important additions and improvements are being made to the original structures. The visitors who studied the various departments of the Metropolitan Museum hast year, visiting them to-day, would fall to tecognize the conditions with which they became familiar a year argo.

characteristics of the value collections in examples to be found in collections in America.

In St. Lauis several important additions have been made to private collections during the last year, in one case the pleture being of world-wide reputation. To the permanent collection of our own auseum rare examples have been added; one a masterly example of the French animal painter Rosa Roadeur, another a strong marine by the late Helgian painter Cays, exquisite in toos and composition.

A distinct gain locally has been anade in the important alterations and improve the important alteration in the interior of the control of the control of the control of the important additions the important additions the interior of the provide of the provide of the interior of the control of the control of the interior of the interior of the interior of the control of the interior of the i

other department, and this advancement has not been confined to any one branch of education. There has been a steady and education. There has been a steady and rapid progress in primary, intermediate and higher education. I am to speak here only of higher education. In this branch the ad-vance in teachers and teaching has been very remarkable. Our instructors and pro-fessors now are, on the whole, much better teachers than were those of one hundred years ago.

resors now are, on the whole, much better teachers than were those of one hundred years ago.

Nowadays in order to be able to instruct in the best manner in a college, a man must prepare himself by passing through the preparatory school and college and afterwards by applying himself for several years to work in the particular department to which he intends to devote himself. He must be a specialist before he is likely to obtain recognition as a teacher in any subject. So great has been the increase in the number of colleges and in the facilities offered that there is no difficulty at the present time in finding men for all college positions who have had at least three years of special training in their subjects after graduating from college.

A hundred years ago the idea seems to have prevailed that any well educated man could teach any subject, and, hence, when a minister, lawyer or doctor had failed in his own profession he naturally devoted himself to teaching. The time has passed when we consider graduation from college a certificate of ability to teach.

Admission to college has steadily grown more difficult; that is, the preparatory schools have been obliged to advance their work; and the age of admission to college has steadily increased. It is, I believe, a fact that the young man who enters college to-day without conditions knows more subjects, knows them more thoroughly, and generally has more training than the man who graduated from college even fifty years ago. The methods of instruction have been greatly improved, and we have added greatly to the apparatus of instruction.

The Aim of Modern Teaching. The Cincinnati Museum and Academy, both already liberally endowed, have reserved within the past year a gift of \$100,000 from a public-spirited manufacturer, in apeciation of the work this institution is a for his city. The history of the lar-natitutions of the East-the Metropolituseum of New York, the Boston Muand Fennsylvania Academy of Fine the Hilladelphia—has been the same the year just past as in previous important collections of rare example, as well as large sums of money, in given.

The Aim of Modern Teaching.

The liboratory method of teaching has so far as possible been applied to all subjects. In this method the student learns not only what the main facts of a science are, but also how these facts were discovered; and he is

collections are made, through the generosity of citarens, has far outstraped the original plant as formulated by the founder. In mostly all of these institutions the old quarters are either being abandoned for new wind larger buildings or important additions and improvements are being nades to the original structures. The visitors who seems that the eight nade to the original structures. The visitors who structures are being nades to the original structures. The visitors who seem that the problem of the various departments of the Meritagnistic forms and improvements are being nades to the original structures. The visitors who seem of immense benefit to our problem of the various departments of the Meritagnistic forms with which they became familiar a year and.

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The growth or private collections has kept problem of the problem of the public work. Eve tender the propositions of modern circles in the public work. Eve tender the problem of the proble

permanent collection of our own announcement masteric resumble of the Freem's animateric resumble of the temperature alterations and major market resumble of the major of the temperature alterations and major market resumble of the major of the temperature alterations and major of the major of the temperature alterations and major of the major of the temperature alterations and major of the major of the public of the dispersion of the form of the major of the major of the temperature of the public on Felley and the major of the shall be more heavilful. The the thinks of the man of feeting the major of the ma

west.

The New Washington University.
Early in 1894 the Board of Directors had decided that the institution should be moved to a new site, and, after a careful examination of all the sites available, they purchased the property just west of Ekinker road and Forest Park. Since the university had not the funds, and the times were unpropitions for raising money by ubseription, eight members of the Board of Directors carried this property until 1896, when the amount necessary to pay for it was raised by popular subscription.

In February, 1899, the gift of five buildings, to be erected on the new site, was announced. Mr. Brookings gave University Hall, which was to cost about \$299,000; Mr. Husch, a building for chemistry, to cost about \$199,000; Mr. Cupples, a building for civil engineering, and architecture, a building for mechanical and electrical engineering, with another building for engineering laboratories, to cost, with their equipment, about \$259,000; Mrs. John E. Lägett gave the university a dormitory to cost about \$190,000. When these gifts were announced Mr. Brookings, recognizing that the institution would need mere funds for its support in the new location, offered \$100,000 for this purpose if \$400,000 more were raised within thirty days.

The call for this money was most generously responded to; and the difficulties in the way of completing the new home for the institution were largely reduced. Immediate steps were taken to enlarge the site by the purchase of a strip of land to the south of the site already secured; and landscape architects were asked to study the new site and suggest an arrangement of the buildings on it. Further, a competition of architects was arranged by which six prominent architectural firms were invited to compete, and the competition was thrown open to all other architects of \$1, Louis.

The Board of Directors appointed a committee of five from its own members, and secured the assistance of three architectural experts, who did not take part in the com-

The Board of Directors appointed a com-mittee of five from its own members and secured the assistance of three architectural experts, who did not take part in the com-petition, who, together with the chancellor of the university, constituted a committee which was to make choice of an architect for the new buildings. The competition re-sulted in the choice of Messis. Cope &

EXPANSION OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

ing; the recently introduced courses in manual training for the boys and domestic science for the girls have proved to be the right thing in the right place; our courses of study are arranged to the best possible advantage; promotions are made quarterly, so that a scholar who for any good reason so that a scholar who for any good reason is come shed to absent himself from school for a period of two months or more, may take me ris work at the place where it was drapped without being compelled to wait a part of the year, or to fall back to a lower grade.

Some of the results achieved in the past twenty-five years through the efforts of the cilizens and the school authorities are as follows:

Increased Enrollment in Schools

In 1870 the total number of pupils actually in the St. Louis schools was 20,000. To-day it is over 60,000. In the short space of thirty years, the number has risen to three times the original figure. The list of names of children on the annual register reaches a figure of over 80,000. This means a corresponding increase in the number of teachers, namely, from 428 to 1,627, and in the number of buildings and rooms. Great as this growth in number has been, the frogress in the educational work is still greater.

Kindergartens—St. Louis is the pioneer city in the instruction and spread of the kindergarten. In 1879, 1979. In 1870 the total number of pupils actually

greater.

Kindergartens St. Louis is the pioneer city in the instruction and spread of the kindergarten. In 1873 Miss Susan E. Blow, by offerling her services as a volunteer, opened the first public kindergarten in the Des Peres School, and from that experiment the kindergarten cause in St. Louis has grown until at present no larger school, and very few of the smaller ones, are without kindergartens. There are now 115 kindergartens in connection with the public schools of St. Louis, and there are 201 kindergartens in connection with the public schools of St. Louis, and there are 201 kindergartens in her own midst, but, through her influence, has been helpful in establishing kindergartens in other cities. In fact, many of the leading cities in which kindergartens are maintained began this work by engaging some St. Louis kindergarten teacher. The following names are those of St. Louis kindergarten teachers who carried the spirit and essential features of the work of St. Louis to other cities:

Mrs. Clara Beeson Hubband, Toronto; Miss Laura Fisher, supervisor of kindergartens, Boston; Miss Mary Runyan, Teachers' College, New York; Miss Caroline Hart. Baltimore: Mrs. Ka'e Seaman, New Orleans; Miss Mary Watterman, supervisor of free kindergartens, Brooklyn; Miss Cynthia P. Dozier, supervisor of free kindergartens, Brooklyn; Miss Cynthia P. Dozier, supervisor of free kindergartens, Brooklyn; Miss Cynthia P. Dozier, supervisor of free kindergartens, Rew York City; Miss Marie Hough, Kansas City.

Good Influence of Kindergartens.

The influence of kindergarten training, which has now been continued for over twenty-five years, tends in the direction of refinement, general culture and a love of work. The children enter the public schools after a year's kindergarten training much better prepared for the best kind of school work than would be the case if there were no such preparatory step. Kindergarten methods—that is to say, a system of education which trains by making children active, or, as the saying is, that makes the children learn by doing things—is continued in the primary grades of the public schools where the transition is made to the more formal methods of instruction in the higher grades. The influence of kindergarten methods is perceptible in every grade of the public schools. The teachers rely more on the child's interest in the work and on self-activity than on mere external efforts. There is less of the old-fashioned routine and more of freedom and individuality about the work of instruction.

Libraries—in every school there is a school library, composed of sets of good books, centaining thirty copies of each title, which are put into the hands of the classes to supplement their regular lessons in the readers. They become acquainted with the living influence of life nature and absorb information in a much wider sphere than where school work is confined to the customary technical branches.

In the last three years the Board of Education has found a means of appropriating not less than \$8.00 per year for this purpose, and the public school libraries located in the various buildings have a value of about \$2.00. Good Influence of Kindergartens.

Education of the Teachers.

The improvement in the methods of in-struction is due in no small degree to the constant efforts of the teachers of the city schools for self-improvement. They found-cd for this purpose an association called the Pedagogical Society. They meet every sec-

ond Saturday during the winter months and form into classes for the purpose of studying improved methods of instruction, the psychology of childhood, art and other studies conductive to self-improvement. Last year this voluntary organization was composed of over 700 members.

In addition to these neetings of the Pedagogical Society, the trachers of each grade in all the schools neet and discuss the best methods of traching and of administering discipline. This constant thoughtful activity of the corps of teachers are instructed in all the work in all the schools is surjected the professional spirit to such an extent that the work in all the schools is surjected to professional spirit to such an extent that the work in all the schools of the places of those that withdraw from the places of the child-teaching before she is allowed to graduate. After graduation, whereas, ten years ago, diductic lectures were almost the exclusive

The course of study in the St. Louis public schools is kept free from all that is un-

The course of study in the St. Louis public schools is kept free from all that is unnecessary. There is no so-called fad in the carriculum; but in the ordinary studies of the school the aim is not simply to look for results, so that the child may pass examinations, but to obtain from school and school work the best possible influence on the development of character and the child's individuality.

During the last two years manual training has been made a part of the resular common-school work. The boys of the seventh and eighth grades receive instruction in carpeatry. They draw their own designs and in a systematic way learn the use of the most important tools in making objects of wood, according to a well-devised course of study. The girts of the same grades receive lessons in sewing and fitting, and in the second year lessons in copking. The latter include, not simply the practical operation of cooking, but an elementary bleg of the chemical preperties and natritive value of various kinds of food.

Gymnastics a Feature of the Work.

puring the first quarter of the school year, for instance, the little child is led to realize the general rules of courtesy toward his fellow-students and adults. The school duties, such as resularity in attendance, personal neathers and the care of school property, are explained to him, and the heauty of good will toward other scholars or teachers forms the subject of short talks. The duty of self-preservation, caution in regard to crossing the street-car tracks and dangers of playing in the street in a crowded city are spoken of. In a similar way, through the eight years of school, at least one lesson per week is devoted to practical ethics. While teaching what good conduct is, and informing the growing mind of the duties of man, does not in itself produce good conduct, since there is always a difference between knowing what is right and doln's what is right, these lessons, nevertheless, have a strong influence in mobiling mantly and womannly character.

Training for the Hand and Eye.

Training for the liand and Eye.

Drawing is taught as a part of the regular work, because it is the most universal way in which the hand and eye and a taste for form and color can be developed. The idea is not to educate artists, but to educate in each child taste, a sense of form and cleanliness, and to develop ideas of symmetry and harmony.

The system of classification in every grammar school of the city admits of frequent promotions. If a pupil should fall belieful his class, either en account of insufficient work or sickness, he will not lose a year's time, as he does in the old-fashioned school, where the classes are a year spart and promotions take place but once anoually, but he will find a class, perhaps, ten weeks below his grade, which he can is in.

Need for More School Buildings.

St. Louis, like all other cities, feels the Training for the Hand and Eye.

Need for More School Haildings.

St. Louis, like all other cities, feels the difficulties which rapid growth of population brings with it. It has been difficult to provide school accommodation for all the children that have applied, but four years ago the new Board of Education decided that every child who applied for admission must be received into the public schools, and that no principal must turn away any child for want of room. This seems almost a paradox, but it was carried out to the letter. Where the number of children in any room exceeded the number of scats, two ressions per day were arranged.

One set of children was taught in the morning for four hours, and the other set

One set of children was taught in the norming for four hours, and the other set of children in the afternoon for the same length of time, the afternoon class having a teacher who was not employed during the norming, so that her services might be vicorous and efficient.

There were at that time thirty-six of these touble-time session-rooms in the city. The work of building new schoolhouses, however, has been pushed with such spirit by the Beard of Education and its officers that at the present time there is not a single double-time session to be found anywhere in the St. Louis schools. In most instances permanent buildings of the best kind have been erected to supply the needed room.

and best known
High Awards for School Work. Of the favorable results of the work of instruction in the St. Louis public schools each of the great expositions that have taken place since 186 hears testimory. At the Centennial, held in Philadelphia in 1855; the World's Fair at Chicago in 1883, and at the recent Transmissisppi Exposition at Omaha, the St. Louis school exhibits carried off important prizes. At the Paris Exposition, just closed the St. Louis schools

This is a practical age—we require dem-oustration rather than description, proof rather than theory, and experience rather

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

BY F. LOUIS SOLDAN.

Superintendent of Instruction, St. Louis Schools.

One way in which the rapid growth of the increase in enrollment to the city schools.

The steady increase in the number of public schools was first noticeable in the early severates. It is more already in the land. Our several schools was first noticeable in the early several schools was first noticeable in the early several schools, and has degraten work.

As a city which has encouraged kinder gartens in the public schools, and has degraten work.

As a city which has encouraged kinder gartens in the public schools, and has proved their practicability, St. Louis stands among the first in the land. Our system of Kindergarten Instruction, especially in kindergarten instruction, is copied by the public schools, and has been been declared to the public schools, and has been public schools of the schools of their city school in the city gymnastics from public schools of other cities, and among the first in the land. Our system of the public schools of their cities and marking the continuous schools of the chemical properties of the growth and body, and to harmonize their growth and the collection make it part of the teachers in our public schools of their cities, and among the schools of other cities, and among the public schools.

To the voluntary effects which the greater part of the schools of the schools of the schools.

To the voluntary effects which the greater part of the teachers in our public schools. Our f

Medical Educational Center.

For many years St. Louis has been an important center of medical education, and these evidences of progress mean much for St. Louis, in that her old reputation is thus maintained and improved.

The combination of the Marion-Sims College of Medicine and the Beaumont Hospital Medical College is evidence of the progressive spirit that has animated those institutions in the past, and it may be confidently expected that in their harmonious union this spirit will cause the new institution to take a place in the front rank of medical institutions of the West and show itself to be a worthy representative of medical science in the great metropolis of the Mississippi Valley.

region of a contract of the progressive spirit that has animated those institution to the in the past held her monitous union this spirit will cause the new institution to the spirit will cause the new institution to a worthy representative of medical science in the great metropolis of the Mississippi Validor.

WHAT LABOR

HAS ACHIEVED

BY Mearthur Joilnston,
President of the Central Trades and Labor.

The spirit will cause the new institution to the spirit will be spirit with the spirit will be spirit will be

CHURCH GROWTH IS SATISFACTORY.

BY THE RIGHT REVEREND DANIEL S.

THE RIGHT REVEREND DANIED S.
TUTTLE.
D. D., Bishop of Missouri.
I cannot say that during the year past
there has been any very marked progress
in that portion of the church committed
to my charge. However, I might remark
that the late census shows that in the
State of Missouri, one person out of every

This cenetes, at all events, a substantial advance. So also in the city of St. Louis. In 1899 one out of 171 inhabitants was a communicant of our church; in 1899 one out of 18.

These figures are in line with the thought which I first expressed, namely, that our advance in the past year in nothing markedly great. However, two church bandings have been very substantially improved; one at Hannibal and one at De Soto.

No work anywhere, begun by us, has been given up. Since 1869 I have had charge of only the eastern half of the State. Taskop Atwill of Kansas City has charge of

of only the eastern half of the State. Highop Atwill of Kansas City has charge of the western half. This eastern had in known as the process of missouri. In it there are, besides the Bishop, hity clergymen and lifty-tive parishes, it is my aim to visit every one of these patisnes at least once a year.

Speaking from the experiences of such visitations, I can only retterate what has already been smo—that we are in a condition of healthy life, without any marked phenomena of rapid advancement.

Within a year or two a beautiful stone thurch has been creeted in Columbia as a memorral to the late Captain Rollins. The excellent rector of this church died a few weeks since, and the parish is in carnest search for a new rector.

St. James Courch in St. Louis is a most substantial structure, lately erected in memory of the daughter of Mr. E. C. Simmons. The rector, the Reverend Mr. Ducaworth, is succeeding most admirably in gathering into it a large and faithful congregation.

One of our most faithful clergymen is